



# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH NOTES

No. 926	<b>AUTHOR:</b> Chad Stewart, Deer Research Biologist	<b>DATE</b> 2/1/07
	<b>TITLE:</b> 2006 Deer Biological Check Station Analysis	

**Abstract:** During the 2006 deer-hunting season, division personnel examined 4,695 deer (3.7% of the total statewide harvest) to assess sex and age-structure. Yearling deer represented 46% of the adult male harvest and 38% of the female harvest. The percentage of 1.5 year old males in the adult male harvest has decreased 8% over the last 3 years, while the yearling female harvest has remained relatively stable during that time.

During the 2006 deer season, division personnel aged and sexed 4,695 deer at 62 stations statewide, which represents 3.7% of the total statewide harvest and a 8% percent decrease in the number of deer aged as compared to 2005. Table 1 shows the sex and age structure for all deer examined at the biological check stations. Yearling deer represented 46% of the adult male harvest (statewide statistic); continuing its downward trend since 2003. In the 2006 harvest, yearlings comprised 38% of the adult female harvest, which represented a 4% decrease over last year (Table 2). The proportion of 2.5 year-old males in the adult harvest increased 3%; the corresponding female statistic increased 6% over last year. Among adult males in the sample, 16% were estimated to be  $\geq 3.5$  years old, the same as 2005. Twenty-three percent of adult females were  $\geq 3.5$  years old; a 2% decrease from 2005 (Table 2).

The percent of 1.5 year-old males in the adult male harvest can provide insight into and a measure of the effects of past antlerless harvests on current herd recruitment. This value, as a measure of a change in demographics, can also give indications of large increases in harvest pressure in a given area. Table 3 shows the average age of adult males and females harvested during the opening weekend of firearms season between 1993-2006. The average age of harvested females experiences moderate annual changes, but stays relatively stable throughout time. The average age of harvested males has slowly increased since 2000. It is unknown whether this is a result of the implementation of the OBR in 2002.

Table 1. Number of deer checked in during opening weekend of the 2006 shotgun season.

	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5+	Total
Female	399	399	407	238	1443
Male	465	1269	1072	446	3252
Total	864	1668	1479	684	4695

Table 2. Age structure of adult deer checked in during opening weekend during the 2002-2006 shotgun season. (Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding)

Sex	% of Adult Harvest in Age Class			
	Year	1.5	2.5	3.5
Female	2002	40	35	25
	2003	40	36	23
	2004	37	36	28
	2005	42	33	25
	2006	38	39	23
Male	2002	53	33	14
	2003	54	30	16
	2004	50	35	15
	2005	50	35	16
	2006	46	38	16

Table 3. Average age of adult harvested deer during the first weekend of firearms season (93-06).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Adult Male</u>	<u>Adult Female</u>
1993	2.05	2.62
1994	1.98	2.55
1995	1.99	2.59
1996	1.99	2.43
1997	2.09	2.59
1998	2.02	2.60
1999	2.01	2.53
2000	2.01	2.53
2001	2.10	2.48
2002	2.13	2.50
2003	2.14	2.46
2004	2.17	2.57
2005	2.19	2.47
2006	2.23	2.49

